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Student Audience

Oswald Discussed By Panelists at UT

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Lee Harvey Oswald is innocent of the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dallas Policeman J. D. Tippet, onetime Oswald family defense lawyer Mark Lane said Thursday night in a two-hour defense brief before 350 students in The University of Texas union building.

Lane's defense was called eloquent by panelist Fred Cohen, UT law professor.

Murray Kempton, a New Republic editor on campus as a visiting fellow, and Cohen joined Lane in criticising the conduct of Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade during the days the television cameras of the nation were beamed on Dallas after the assassination. They said Wade's actions and statements prejudiced Oswald's rights under the law.

Lane argued that two or three other persons in a conspiracy shot the President from a railway overpass as the limousine drove away from the Texas Book Depository building. He said Parkland hospital doctors reported a wound in the President's throat came from the bullet's entry, but they changed their story later at insistence of the Secret Service.

He attacked the Warren Commission investigating the murder as a "star chamber" violating American principles and predicted the truth will never be told in an effort to protect America's image.

Lane spent almost as much time lambasting the press for "conditioning" the American public to Oswald's guilt and failing to print the defense story as he did criticizing the other official investigators, Wade and the Dallas police chief.

He drew a strong round of hisses from the students when he tried to develop the line of argu-

(See PANELISTS, Page 4)

Panelists At UT Talk Of Oswald

(From Page One)

ment that Dallas had a far-Right political atmosphere conducive to murder of the President, and that he knew of no other city where there are so many guns so easy to buy.

About this point, after 90 minutes of Lane's defense arguments in great detail, Daily Texan Amusements Editor Hayden Freeman tried to call a time limit but was shouted down by the audience, which had responded most warmly when Lane chewed out the press.

Freeman walked to the front, asked to speak a few words, was told to sit down as panel sponsor leaders from Students for a Democratic Society and Visiting Fellows Committee called for a campus policeman. Kempton took the floor to ask Freeman to be patient and not get thrown out. Freeman took his seat. Later he said he had come to the meeting hoping to hear Kempton, and Lane's long speech was preventing that.

During a late panel session Kempton said he could not agree such people as members of the Warren Commission or Governor John Connally would be part of a conspiracy to keep the truth from the American people, and doubted Lane's version of the assassination.

Cohen suggested that despite bungling, the Dallas police did stumble on the right man when they captured Oswald. Cohen said he did not think the FBI could silence Parkland Hospital doctors or other men of good faith.